REMARKS

Claims 1-22, 25, 27, and 28 are pending. Applicants have added new claims 29-33. Claims 1-22, 25, 27, and 28-33 will therefore be pending upon entry of the proposed amendments.

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with a response to a Restriction Requirement having a notification date of December 15, 2008.

Claim Amendments

The present application makes reference to two type of cells intimately related to each other, which have been subjected to a reversible genetic modification, namely "*reversibly-immortalised*" and "*reverse-immortalised*" OEG cells (see page 6, lines 2-4; page 6, lines 9-21; page 7, line 30 – page 8, line 9 of the specification). A "*reversibly-immortalised*" cell is a cell that is presently in an immortalised state, but can be returned to a non-immortalised state at a later time (see page 11, lines 10-11). A "*reverse-immortalised*" cell is a cell that now exists in a non-immortalised state (see page 11, lines 14-15), which is directly obtained from the "*reversibly-immortalised*" cells by subjecting them to a further step of genetic modification. This relationship is clear from the specification, e.g. comparing page 6, lines 9-21 and page 7, line 30 – page 8, line 9, and the definitions of page 11, lines 10 to 15. The claim amendments hereinafter detailed are intended to clarify the relationship of these cells.

Claim 1

Applicants have rewritten the term "*human functional OEG cells*" to read "*reverse-immortalised human olfactory ensheathing glia (OEG) cells, which have the ability to promote axonal regeneration from adult CNS neurons.*" Support for substituting "*functional*" with "*which have the ability to promote axonal regeneration from adult CNS neurons*" can be found throughout the specification, e.g. page 5, line 25 and 30-31, and page 11, lines 17-20. Support for substituting "*human OEG cells*" with "*reverse-immortalised human olfactory ensheathing glia (OEG) cells*" can be found throughout the specification, , eg. page 11, lines 14-15. Applicants have amended step "b" to be consistent with the specification, namely page 6, line 12, namely

replacing "*a DNA construct comprising a removable DNA segment*" by "*a vector comprising a removable DNA segment*". Applicants have further amended step "d" to be consistent with the above-described amendment to the preamble. Finally, Applicants have replaced "*oncogene or combination of oncogenes*" in step "e" with "*DNA segment.*" Applicants have also amended step "e" to be consistent with the above-described amendment to the preamble. Support for the two latter amendments may be found throughout the specification, e.g. page 6, lines 12 and 16.

Claim 2

Applicants have amended claim 2 to be consistent with claim 1 in its presently amended form.

Claim 7

Claim 7 as presently amended is directed to a "*population of reverse-immortalised human OEG cells, which have the ability to promote axonal regeneration, for transplantation into a patient, produced by the method of claim 5*". Support for the amendment to claim 7 can be found throughout the specification, e.g., at page 11, lines 17-20.

Claim 8

Applicants have amended claim 8 to be consistent with claim 7 in its presently amended form.

Claims 9 and 11

The amendments to claims 9 and 11 are similar to those made to claims 1 and 7, respectively. With the exception that "*a DNA construct comprising a removable DNA segment*" with "*a vector comprising a removable DNA construct*", as indicated in the paragraph on page 7, line 30 – page 8, line 9 of the specification. "*DNA segment*" has been replaced by "*DNA construct*" throughout the claim, according to the same site of the specification.

Claim 12

Applicants have amended claim 12 to be consistent with claim 11 in its presently amended form.

Claim 13

Applicants have rewritten the phrase "*immortalised human OEG cell*" to read "*reversibly-immortalised human OEG cell, which has the ability to promote axonal regeneration from adult CNS neurons.*" Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification, e.g., at page 6, lines 2-4; page 7, line 29 through page 8, line 9; and page 11, lines 17-20. Applicants have also replaced the second occurrence of "*oncogene*" with "*DNA construct*" to be consistent with the rest of the claim. Further in front of "*a DNA construct*", "*a vector comprising*" has been inserted, in order to clarify the subject-matter; support may be found throughout the specification.

Claims 14-18

Applicants have amended claims 14-18 to be consistent with claim 13 as presently amended.

Claim 19

Support for the amendments to claim 19 can be found throughout the specification, e.g., at page 6, lines 2-4; page 7, line 29 through page 8, line 9; page 8, lines 14-20; and page 11, lines 17-20.

Claim 21

Support for the amendment to claim 21 can be found throughout the specification, e.g., at page 6, lines 2-4; and page 11, lines 17-20.

Claim 22

Support for the amendment to claim 22 can be found throughout the specification, e.g., at page 5, line 25 and 30-31, and page 11, lines 17-20.

Claim 25

Applicants have amended claim 25 to be consistent with claim 22 as presently amended.

Claims 29-32

Support for new claims 29-32 can be found throughout the specification, e.g., at page 12, lines 1-10.

Claim 33

Support for new claim 33 can be found throughout the specification, e.g., at page 7, line 29 to page 8, line 9.

Finally, Applicants have made minor changes to the wording of claims 20, 27, and 28.

No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

Applicant asks that all claims be examined in view of the amendment to the claims.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 14829-003US1 / F/USP288389.

Respectfully submitted,

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